The Ministry processes applications for financial assistance and sanctions grants under various Plan Schemes on the basis of the applicant units fulfilling the required criteria and furnishing of relevant documents. The entire budget allocation for the year 2006-07 has been utilized.

Establishment of mega food parks

†3352. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various steps being taken to establish the mega food parks in different States;

(b) whether the process of setting up mega food parks has already been initiated in some States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Ministry has proposed a new scheme of mega food parks in the country which is envisaged to be a well defined agri/horticultural processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The proposed scheme aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimize wastages and improve farmers' income. The Ministry has initiated the process of getting conducted feasibility studies for setting up of mega food park in the country. The scheme which includes setting up of 30 Mega Food Parks with a higher level assistance of a ceiling of Rs. 50 crore each, is under consideration/consultation with Planning Commission for inclusion in the XI Five Year Plan and upon approval of the scheme, formal proposals would be invited.

Expansion of Food Processing Industries in Karnataka

3353 SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.